

**4th of July Remarks, Ambassador Donald S. Beyer, July 4, 2011
Bern, Switzerland**

Ladies and Gentlemen, our American National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

Well done, Marines! You embody a long proud tradition of defending human rights and America abroad. Thank you for your service.

And thank you, Randal Turner, who brings his gifts and passion for a second year to our Independence celebration. He is an accomplished American opera baritone, who has made his home in Zurich and his career throughout Europe.

Today is the 235th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the symbolic day of creation of the United States of America. We celebrate this today, in the capital of Switzerland, by recognizing two powerful themes that have guided the friendship of our sister republics over the centuries.

The first is Innovation. I read that just last week, Swiss businesses were recognized as the most innovative in the world in 2011. And the U.S.? From the cotton gin to the iPad, from the telegraph to the discovery of quarks, the U.S.A. has always been the world leader in innovation. I love the complementary facts that the U.S. has more Nobel Prize winners than the rest of the world combined, while Switzerland has the most Nobel Prize winners per capita.

And can anything better represent this spirit of Innovation than Jazz? Born in the Southern U.S. a century ago, from the “confrontation of African Americans with European music,” jazz has long been the essential American creative, improvisational, an innovative ideal.

44 years ago, in 1967, a young man named Claude Nobs brought that tradition to this Helvetic Republic – and today the Montreux Jazz Festival is the most famous in the world.

Our second theme today is Leadership. Today, as we have for more than two centuries, our American Great Experiment is at work around the

globe, fighting AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, nation-building in Afghanistan and Iraq, protecting the innocent in country after country, and investing more in development aid than all other nations combined.

And the leadership of Switzerland is hard at work, too – Turkey and Armenia, Russia and Georgia, Israelis and Palestinians, in the Sudan, Sri Lanka, and for us, in Iran and Cuba.

And no one person here today better exemplifies Leadership and world engagement than the inestimable Quincy Jones.

Claude Nobs and Quincy Jones. Innovation and Leadership. On this perfect Swiss summer afternoon, let us thank God for these men, for our freedom, for our democracies, and for the critical responsibilities we must take in today's world.

Claude Nobs.

First let me say, as an American, I thank you. Nothing we pursue in our Embassy does as much to promote mutual cultural understanding as what you do at the Montreux Jazz Festival every year.

From the days of the Cold War, you have given people a reason to smile (or at least tap their feet) when they think of America. For 45 years, you have showcased our spirit, the essence of who we are: American Jazz. For all these decades you have brought the best of American talent to these mountains and lakes, leadership and innovation.

And you have always done so with kindness, with humility, and with an enormous love for the music and people you have entertained.

And so, Claude Nobs, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, in the words of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, I hereby declare you:

“A Founding Father of American Jazz in Europe”

Quincy Jones.

This year you received the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama for your extraordinary contributions to American Music as a

musician, composer, record producer, and arranger. Today, we honor you for your work as a humanitarian and statesman.

Somewhere along the way you decided to orchestrate a more harmonious world. And as usual, the project has had outsized success. From Ethiopia to the projects in Chicago, from Haiti to the Middle East, you bring us all together to reveal our common humanity.

You have a huge heart, unlimited talent, stunning generosity and an unfailing idealism. We are so proud of you.

And so, Quincy Jones, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, in the words of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, I hereby declare you:

“Heart and Soul, The Maestro of Peace”

This concludes our formal ceremony. Thank you for helping us to celebrate America’s birth. We now invite you to enjoy the evening with the superb blues artist Philipp Fankhauser and his band, and special guest Claude Nobs! They just opened last night at the Montreux Jazz Festival with the chairman of the board, B.B. King. Let’s give them a hearty welcome!